State Government of Gujarat to establish a Centre for Marine Biotechnology in Gujarat;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the plan provision for Centre for Marine Biotechnology in the Tenth Plan and their locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRl KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, a collaborative project proposal has been received from the Central Salt & Marine Chemical Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar and Department of Science & Technology, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, in the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India.

(b) The proposal was examined by the Department and was found to have a large overlap with the programmes and activities of the CSMCRI (CSIR Institute). The institute has been asked to re-examine the proposal *vis-a-vis* the existing mandate of CSMCRI and submit a revised version for DBT's consideration.

(c) There is no specific provision for the establishment of Centre for Marine Biotechnology in the Tenth Five Year Plan. The proposals would be considered on the basis of need and merit.

Cooperation with Germany in the field of S&T

2523. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to improve cooperation in the area of Science and Technology between India and Germany, the two countries are in the process of setting up an Indo-German research training group on nano-materials;

(b) if so.whetner any concrete proposals in this regard have been received;

(c) if so.the details thereof;

(d) whether Germans are keen to have a collaboration with India particularly in the area of IT and Biotechnology; and

(e) by what time final agreement in this regard is likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRIKAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Discussions between scientists of the two countries have been taking place to formulate a proposal on setting up of Indo-German Research Training Group on "Engineered Functional Nanocomposites". A scientific delegation from India visited Germany in April, 2004 for detailed discussions with their counterparts.

(d) and (e) Bilateral Indo-German S &T Cooperation includes both IT and Bio technology as identified priority areas. Additionally, special arrangement has been concluded by Department of Biotechnology with Germany for collaboration in the field of Biotechnology.

Centre of Excellence in Bio-Metrics

2524. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hyderabad based Centre for DNA Finger-Printing and Diagnostics, the Andhra Pradesh Government and SUN-Microsystems, a computer hardware manufacturer, have signed a Memorandum under which a Centre of Excellence in Bio-Metrics is to be set up in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of benefits of such a Centre; and

(d) whether Government would assure of completing the project within a specified short period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Centre for DNA Finger-printing and Diagnostics (CDFD), Government of Andhra Pradesh and SUN Microsystem have signed an MoU.

(b) The proposed SUN Centre of Excellence (CoE), which will be set up at the new CDFD Complex, is in Medical Bioinformatics and not in Bio-metrics. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 11th February, 2004 by the SUN-Microsystem, Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics. The